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BRANDS CIA FOR MISSILE ISSUE

Sen. Stuart Symington Says "Gap" Complaint Based on Security Estimates

OFF BY 96½ PER CENT

Missourian Blames Allen Dulles for Intelligence Error on Red Strength

By Jack Williams
(The Star's Washington Correspondent)

Washington—Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.) yesterday blamed his claim of a "missile gap" in the 1960 political campaign on the Central Intelligence agency. Inaccurate estimates of the

Russian continental ballistic missile stockpile resulted in his alarm, the senator said in a broadcast with Sen. Kenneth Keating (R-N. Y.). After election of President Kennedy the administration took the position there never had been a "missile" gap.

Puts Blame on Dulles

Symington said estimates of the relative atomic power of the United States and Russia are more reliable under the new administration. The senator said that "it's sad but true" that Allen Dulles, then CIA head, had greatly overestimated the Russian missile strength up until 1959.

"Between December, 1959, and August, 1961, (Dulles) reduced the estimate of ICBM's on launching pads in Russia by 96½ per cent and inasmuch as one of the three major justifications for the defense budgets in what the Russians have, I knew how serious it is to be

that far off," the senator said. "On the other hand we have better intelligence now, in my opinion, and much of that is classified."

"But I think today it is fair to say that we know a good deal more than we did before about what is going on in Soviet Russia and Red China."

The senator, who is credited with originating the "missile gap" issue in the last presidential campaign, did not give any estimates of the comparative nuclear power of the two nations at this time.

Treaty Won't Help

Symington, member of the Senate preparedness subcommittee, said he did not think the test ban treaty would help this country's military position.

"We decided we did not want to go into the very high-yield weapons—over 10 megatons, for example—to the extent that the Russians have," he said. "And we decided that we were also going to concentrate on what

you might call tactical nuclear weapons. I don't think it is going to help the Russians in turn too much either if they obey the treaty."

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